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Executive Registry

77-7262

DDA 77-1905

18 APR 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : John F. Blake
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Top Secret National Security Classification Authority

REFERENCE : Executive Order 11652 issued in June 1972

1. Background: Executive Order 11652 requires that Top Secret classification authority be delegated by the head of an agency or his duly authorized principal deputy in writing. At the time the Executive Order was issued, certain positions were identified as requiring Top Secret classification authority. Over the years numerous officers and positions have been added and/or deleted so that some of the listings were current while others were outdated. In February a review was conducted throughout the Agency to update the listings of Top Secret classification authorities and the results of this review are attached.

2. Staff Position: The present system is unduly burdensome and inefficient. Currently, DDCI approval of Top Secret classification authority is required whenever an officer changes positions -- either to add or delete his name from the computer registers. Your approval of this memorandum will designate the positions and current incumbents on the attached lists as Top Secret classification authorities, thus eliminating the necessity for your re-approval of the authority upon an officer's rotation. In the future, persons assigned to one of the designated positions will be delegated Top Secret authority on the basis of this memorandum and the routine submission of a personnel action form indicating the level of classification authority required in the officer's new position. This authority will be revoked automatically by the formal personnel action upon the officer's rotation to a position not designated as requiring Top Secret authority. In only two cases will your personal delegation be necessary in the future: reorganizations or reviews which identify new positions requiring Top Secret classification authority and assignments of officers to development complements, pending permanent assignments, whose duties require Top Secret authority.

This document becomes UNCLASSIFIED
when separated from attachment.

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3. Recommendation: Your approval of the attached list of ☐ Top Secret classification authorities is requested. Reports of classifying authorities at all levels will continue to be reviewed semi-annually to ensure accuracy and effective control. The Office of General Counsel has stated that the procedure outlined above is consistent with the requirements of Executive Order 11652 and a Headquarters notice implementing this procedure will be issued upon your approval.

25X1

/s/John F. Blake
John F. Blake

APPROVED ()

DISAPPROVED ()

E. H. Knoche
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Date

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JACK:

As E.H.K. will not in any case be seeing this until, at the earliest, Thursday afternoon, I wondered if you might want to use the intervening time to respond to note.

A/DDCI

Date 19/4/77

ET

authority

NTS (Number each comment to show from whom
Draw a line across column after each comment.)

FORM 101 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-B
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(17)

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~~EXCISE REGISTRY FILE~~

DDA

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP

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CIA-RDP80M00165A000300050008-9

TO:

Mr. Knoche

Executive Registry

ROOM NO.

BUILDING

77-7262/1

REMARKS:

You may be interested in an "outsiders" opinion. I bet the DCI would be horrified at [] people being certified to classify something Top Secret. The NSC has 2 people. Policy and Coordination Staff employees, for example, could submit something to one or two people in the entire section for possible Top Secret classification and allow them to decide and to exercise their authority to do so. If most DDO Divisions give authority to

The list is dated 1 April, but []

(over)

FROM:

ROOM NO.

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

DDA 18 Apr

Anything in
file?

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

DDA

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In short, I think the DCI would favor and applaud any attempt to cut the list; I think it could be done by placing the authority in top management and making them responsible for the classification even though others may prepare it and cite the top management's name and number as authority for so classifying, and finally, I think the lists ought to be as correct as possible and therefore the position would be the better route to go in giving this authority.

Approved For Release 2004/04/01 : CIA-RDP80M00165A000300050008-9

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: Executive Registry		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
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